

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A picture decoding method for decoding a bitstream, said method comprising:

outputting a decoded picture by decoding a coded picture included in the bitstream;

5           outputting a filtered picture by performing a filtering process on the decoded picture;

          extracting filtering application information from the bitstream, the filtering application information indicating, on a picture-by-picture basis, which one of the decoded picture before the filtering process and the decoded picture after the filtering process is outputted

10          for a display process; and

          storing, in a memory, the decoded picture after the filtering process as a reference picture, and outputting the decoded picture before the filtering process in the case where the decoded picture is the reference picture and the filtering application information indicates, as the picture for the display process, the decoded picture before the filtering process.

27. (New) The picture decoding method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

          storing, in the memory, the decoded picture after the filtering process as a reference picture, and

5           outputting the decoded picture after the filtering process in the case where the decoded picture is the reference picture and the filtering application information indicates, as the picture for the display process, the decoded picture after the filtering process.

28. (New) The picture decoding method according to Claim 26,

wherein the filtering application information is applied for a predetermined picture and each picture following the predetermined picture.

29. (New) A picture decoding apparatus for decoding a bitstream, said apparatus comprising:

a decoding unit operable to output a decoded picture by decoding a coded picture included in the bitstream;

5 a filtering unit operable to output a filtered picture by performing a filtering process on the decoded picture;

an extracting unit operable to extract filtering application information from the bitstream, the filtering application information indicating, on a picture-by-picture basis, which one of the decoded picture before the filtering process and the decoded picture after the filtering  
10 process is outputted for a display process;

a storing unit operable to store, in a memory, the decoded picture after the filtering process as a reference picture; and

a display picture output unit operable to output the decoded picture before the filtering process in the case where the decoded picture is the reference picture and the filtering  
15 application information indicates, as the picture for the display process, the decoded picture before the filtering process.

30. (New) The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 29,

wherein said display picture output unit further operable to output the decoded picture after the filtering process in the case where the decoded picture is the reference picture and the filtering application information indicates, as the picture for the display process, the  
5 decoded picture after the filtering process.

31. (New) The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 29,

wherein the filtering application information is applied for a predetermined picture and each picture following the predetermined picture.